

**Memorandum of Understanding Between
The United States Department of Agriculture and
The Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
Regarding Cooperation on Agricultural Issues**

The United States Department of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”):

Desiring to develop and to strengthen cooperation in the agricultural sector;

Affirming their commitment to market-oriented agricultural policies and ongoing efforts to promote an open and fair trading relationship in food and agricultural products;

Restating their dedication to expand bilateral agricultural trade and investment, to increase agricultural productivity through creative, cooperative projects and enhancing agribusiness development; and

Being convinced that cooperation in the agricultural sector will promote further development of the relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation.

Basing on principles of trust, equality and mutual benefits, have hereby reached the following understandings:

- I.** The Participants intend to conduct cooperative activities in the areas of:
- Building a more favorable environment for investment in the agricultural sector;
 - Collaboration in veterinary and phytosanitary activities, including animal and plant genetics and utilization of biotechnology;
 - Development of joint agricultural research, extension and education;
 - Enhancing agricultural policy and development of rural areas;

- Sustainable development as an instrument to resolve economic, environmental and social problems in rural areas.

II. For the realization of these goals, the Participants intend to form three “Working Groups covering:

- 1) Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness and Investment;
- 2) Research, Education and Extension; and
- 3) Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Russian Minister of Agriculture will identify overall Coordinators, one from each side, to ensure obtaining full information exchange and to coordinate activities of the Working Groups.

Working Groups will be co-chaired by representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Russian Ministry Agriculture. The Co-Chairs of the Working Groups are expected to meet with the United States Secretary of Agriculture and the Russian Minister of Agriculture annually in Washington and Moscow, on a rotating basis, to review accomplishments of their joint activities and to adopt strategies and plans for the coming year. Five (5) members of the Working Group are to be chosen by the respective Co-Chairs, based on their professional achievement and their ability to respond to the issues to be discussed in a Working Group.

III. The *Agricultural Policy, Agribusiness and Investment Working Group* is intended to consider and discuss the following issues: development of effective domestic agricultural policy; development of market infrastructure and an economic environment conducive to attracting private agribusiness and investment; supporting more efficient market transactions through improved market information and analysis systems, grades and standards and food safety practices.

The *Research, Education and Extension Working Group* is intended to consider or discuss ways in which United States and Russian scientists and educators can collaborate on areas of mutual interest related to market-based agriculture. Special emphasis may be placed on

supporting the development of mutually-beneficial applied research and projects between scientific and educational institutions, and the strengthening of agricultural extension.

The *Sustainable Agriculture And Rural Development Working Group* is intended to share experience and information in building areas of sustainable agriculture. The Working Group may develop cooperation in utilization of efficient technological, technical and institutional approaches to increasing productivity; improving infrastructure to raise employment in rural areas; and preservation and conservation of animal and plant resources.

Further cooperation may also be effected through separate memoranda or agreements related to:

- Regular contacts between appropriate agencies of the Participants;
- Regular meetings of specialists and representatives of the interested institutions;
- Exchange of scientific and technical information, results of scientific studies which do not contain confidential state or commercial information;
- Joint research and extension between scientific, private sector, and educational organizations;
- Encouragement of joint enterprises in the agricultural sector;
- Exchange programs for agricultural specialists;
- Conducting workshops, symposia, conferences, exhibitions, and other such cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed upon by the Participants; and
- Conducting workshops, symposia, conferences, exhibitions, and other such cooperative activities as may be mutually agreed upon by the Participants.

IV. In order to provide the maximum effects of cooperation, the Participants should encourage interested government agencies, private agribusiness, and scientific institutions of both countries to participate in the Working Group's activities, where appropriate, and in the other forms of collaboration. The Participants should encourage and facilitate broad contacts between the leaders and specialists of the appropriate institutions, scientists and educators, and work toward long-term cooperation.

The Participants should encourage the publication of scientific and technical information of non-proprietary nature derived from the cooperative activities (unless otherwise agreed by the Participants).

V. Certain activities to be conducted under this Memorandum may be set out in greater detail by the Participants in writing in subsequent implementing arrangements. Each Participant is to bear the costs of its participation in all cooperative activities unless the Participants agree on other arrangements. All cooperative activities are subject to the availability of funds, resources, and personnel and are to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Participants.

VI. Cooperation under this Memorandum will be implemented from its date of signature. Cooperation under this Memorandum may be ended by either Participant by written notice to the other Participant six (6) months in advance. The Participants will work to conclude specific cooperative projects already in progress at the time cooperation under this Memorandum is ended.

Signed in Washington, DC, in English and Russian, this second day of May, 2003, in duplicate in the English and Russian languages.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA:

Ann M. VENEMAN
Secretary of Agriculture
of the United States of America

FOR THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Alexey V. GORDEYEV
Deputy Chairman of the Government of the
Russian Federation – Minister of
Agriculture of the Russian Federation

